MINUTES

—OF THE—

Fifty-Eighth Annual Session

—OF THE—

Wetumpka Baptist Association

—HELD WITH THE—

Church at Bethel, Jefferson County, Alabama,

September 21, 22 and 23, 1900.

OFFICERS:

ELD J. W. HOWELL, Salter, Ala., - - - MODERATOR
J. H. JOHNSON, Speed, Ala., - - - - CLERK.

—o—

TROY, ALA.:
JOHN POST, PRINTER,
1900.

MINUTES.

The Wetumpka Baptist Association convened in its Fifty-eighth Annual Session with Beulah church, Jefferson county, Ala., Sept. 21st, 1900.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. R. Monk from Romans 1st chapter and 16th verse: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

1. After an intermission of one hour the messengers assembled in the house. Prayer by Eld. R. B. Smith.

2. Read the letters, enrolled the messengers' names, and minuted the state of the churches. (See table).

3. Re-elected Eld. J. W. Howell, Moderator, and J. H. Johnson, Clerk.

4. Invited visiting and corresponding brethren to seats with us, and called for corresponding minutes.

5. Offered opportunity to petitionary churches for membership.

6. Appointed the following committees:

To Examine Corresponding Minutes—Elders R. B. Smith and S. S. Crumpton.

To Arrange Preaching—A. G. Embry, W. H. Holley, F. L. Barker, M. C. Wood, and J. M. Cardwell.

On Minute Fund—J. K. White and W. N. Hornsby.

To Write Correspondiug Letter—W. H. Holley.

7. Appointed District meetings as follows:

Third District having first choice, to meet at Little Hope on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in August, 1901.

First District to meet at Swamp Creek on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1901.

Second District to meet at Mt. Gilead on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in July, 1901.

8. Called for petitionary correspondence from sister Associations.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. J. P. Nobles.

SATURDAY, Sept. 22nd, 1900.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. J. L. Leekroy of the Hillabee.

9. Called the roll, and marked absentees thus *

10. Called for correspondents from sister Associations and received—

From the Hillabee--Elder J. L. Leekroy, and brethren W. E. Justice, J. B. Spradley and W. A. Justice—also minutes.

From the Beulah—No correspondents, but minutes.

From the Mt. Zion—Elders W. W. Barton and W. J. McComak, and Bro. Parker, together with minutes.

From the Little Hope—No correspondents.

11. Returned correspondents as follows:

To the Hillabee--Eld. R. B. Smith and J. K. White and J. D. M. Jowers.

To the Mt. Zion –J. D. M. Jowers and H. J. Guy.

To the Beulah—Eld. R. B. Smith.

To the Little Hope–Brethren J. P. Nobles and W. S. Sharbutt.

12. The Corresponding letter was read and adopted.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Wetumpka Association of the Primitive Faith and Order in Session with the church at Beulah, Jefferson county, Ala., Sept. 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 1900.

DEAR AND BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD: In humble thankfulness to Almighty God, for his preserving care over us, and a desire to continue our correspondence with you, we address you this epistle of love.

When we take a retrospective view of our past history, we can and do feel truly thankful to the Giver of all blessings.

In every attempt that has been made to mar our peace, or disrupt us as a people, we have been enabled, through Him that loved us and gave Himself for us, to triumph most gloriously. We have enjoyed more than fifty years of peace and brotherly love of this the nineteenth century. Our present session will close our labors as an Association for this century, and ere the close of the next not one of us will have an earthly existence. Solemn thought! While this is true we believe that the principles and the doctrine we have been advocating for so many long years will stand as the everlasting hills.

The business of the body has been transacted in peace and love, without interfering at all with the preaching. All of the churches are represented except Fish Pond and Marble Valley.

Our next session will be held, God willing, with Mt. Gilead church 16 miles north-east of Wetumpka, Elmore county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in Sept., 1901

We desire to feel thankful for the presence of several corresondents and minutes which we gladly received. We appreciate your correspondence, and hope it will be fuller in the future.

13. The committee to examine corrresponding minutes reported that they found nothing claiming the attention of the body.

14. Called for contributions and received $22.75, and distributed corresponding minutes.

15. Appointed the next session of this body to convene with the church at Mt. Gilead, Elmore county, Ala., sixteen miles North-east of Wetumpka, on Friday before the 4th Sunday in Sept., 1901.

By motion the body agreed to have erased the 3rd article of its Decorum.

Agreed to have 500 copies of this minute printed, the clerk to reserve 50 copies for correspondence and distribute the remainder among the churches in proportion to the amount of funds contributed by each and he to have balance of funds for his services.

By motion of Eld. S. S. Crumpton the thanks of this body are tendered to the brethren, sisters and friends in this community for the generous hospitality extended to us during the meeting.

The business of the body being finished the meeting adjourned to assemble again for preaching.

Prayer by Eld. W. W. Barton.

ELD. J. W. HOWELL, Moderator.

J. H. JOHNSON, Clerk.

We have attended Associations where larger crowds and a greater number of preachers were in attendance, but never have we seen better order observed by the congregation, or the brethren and sisters more comforted and strengthened under the preaching than at the present session of the Wetumpka.

The stand was filled in the following order:

Friday p. m., Eld. W. J. McComak, followed by Bro. J. P. Nobles.
Satnrday a. m., Eld. W. W. Barton, followed by Eld. S. S. Crumpton.
Saturday p. m., Eld. R. B. Smith, followed by Eld. J. L. Leekroy.
Sunday a. m., Eld. J. H. Shirley, followed by Eld. S. S. Crumpton.
Closed by the Moderator.—CLERK.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Elder R. B. Smith, Eclectic, Ala.
Elder J. W. Howell, Salter, Ala.
Elder S. S. Crumpton, Lewis, Ala.
Elder J. J. Moore, Sterrett, Ala.
Elder J. R. Monk, Equality, Ala.
Elder J. E. Dykes, Columbiana, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

J. P. Nobles, Deatsville, Ala.
A. L. Forshee, Lily, Ala.
M. C. Wood, Leeds, Ala.

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND SCRIPTURAL PROOF.

Article 1. We believe in the only true and living God—the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost. We prove this from 1 John 5,7: For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. St. John 1,1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God; 10, 30: I and my Father are one. 18,13: And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.

Art. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim 3, 16: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, etc. 2 Peter 1, 21: For the prophecy came not in old times by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Heb. 1, 1, 2: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the world.

Art. 3. We believe that God elected or chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love. Psa. 33, 12: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance. Eph. 1,4: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. 1 Peter 1,2: Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, etc. Acts 9, 15: For He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings and the children of Israel.

Art. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability. Rom. 5, 12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned; 3, 23: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; 7, 14: For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin; 8,7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. John 6, 44, No man can come to me except the Father which sent me draw him.

Art. 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed rtghteousness of Jesus Christ. Rom. 10, 4: For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. 2 Cor. 5, 21: For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. 1 Cor 1, 30: But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Gal. 2, 21: For if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Art. 6. We believe that God's eleet shall be called, effectually regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost, and shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away. 1 Cor. 1, 2: To them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours. Titus 3, 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Heb. 2, 11: For both he that sanctifieth, and they who are sanctified are all of one; for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.

Art. 7. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and the true mode of paptism is immersion. Mark 1, 9: And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee; and was baptized of John in Jordan; 16; 16: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Acts 22, 16: And now, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized; 8, 37: And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still and they went down both into the water, both Phlip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. Rom. 6, 4: Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,

The Supper—Matt. 26, 26: And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat: this is my body; verse 27: And he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it, verse 28: For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 1 Cor. 5, 11: If any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one no not to eat; 11, 29: For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Art. 8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment and that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal. Math. 28, 5: And the angel answered and said unto the woman, Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified; verse 6: He is not here; for he is risen, as he said; verse 7: And go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead. Acts 24, 15: There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust; 17, 31: Because he hath appointed a day in the which he shall judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. John 5, 28, 29: Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Art. 9. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances only such as are called of God, as was Aaron, and come under the imposition of hands by a Presbytery, and in fellowship with the church of which he is a member. Lev. 8, 8: And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take Aaron and his sons with you. Heb. 5, 4: No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. 1 Tim. 4, 14: Neglect not the gift that is in thee which was given thee by Prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Acts 13, 2: The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabus and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them, and when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Art. 10. We believe that God has ordained good works, that His children should walk in them, and that good works are only such as God hath commanded in His word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intentions. Eph. 2, 10: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. James 2, 18; Show me thy faith without thy works,

and I will show thee my faith by my works. Rom. 10, 3; For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Titus 3, 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Art. 11. We believe that washing the saints' feet was ordained by Christ, to be done by His children in a church capacity, until his second coming. John 13, 5: After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash his disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded; and verse 14: If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet; and verse 15: For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 1 Tim. 5, 19: Well reported of for good works, if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have followed every good work.

FORM OF CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall meet annually if the churches think proper, as an advisory council, and be composed of messengers from the different churches, and each church shall have two messengers, and no more. The messengers' names shall be inserted in the letters from the churches which they represent.

Art. 2. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated The Wetumpka Baptist Association.

Art. 3. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present, who shall be of the body, and shall hold the offices until the next election.

Art. 4. The different churches may express in their letters the number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excluded, restored and dead since last Association.

Art. 5. No act of the Association shall be binding on the church, but it shall be its duty to give the best advice in matters of difficulty, and endeavor to preserve the union of the churches.

Art. 6. This Association shall receive any church that may petition by letter and messenger, if found orthodox in faith and moral in practice; also, if any church that is in order wishes to withdraw, she may, at discretion, or on application, obtain a letter of dismission.

Art. 7. This Association will not fellowship with any church or churches, nor hold them in union, who are engaged in supporting any Missionary, Bible, Tract, or Sunday-school Union Society, or advocates State Conventions or Theological Schools, nor any other society that has been, or may hereafter be formed under a pretense of circulating the gospel of Christ, nor will she correspond with any Association that is engaged in supporting any of the above named institutions.

Art. 8. If any church in this union shall become offended with a sister church in point of faith and practice, it shall be the duty of the said church to have an interview with the church thus offending, and if satisfaction is not obtained, she shall call in the aid of one or two other churches, who shall investigate the whole matter and decide according to their best judgment, and report to the Association, which shall be final

and entered upon the records as such, and if said accused church shall be found guilty as charged, the Association shall withdraw from said church.

Art. 9. This Association may correspond with other Associations of the same faith and order, and such only, and may withdraw her correspondence at discretion.

Art. 10. Amendments to this Constitution may be made by two-thirds of the members in session.

Art. 11. This Association shall have power to adjourn to any time and place she may think most convenient to the churches in this union.

DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer, and when opened the Moderator shall invite brethren to sit with us—that is, of our faith and order.

2. If new churches desire to be admitted into this Association, they shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination if found worthy, orthordox and orderly, they shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

3. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

4. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he departs from the subject.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

6. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in the time of public speech, nor cast reflections on the speaker.

7. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without leave from it.

8. The several names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association may require.

9. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, and he shall have no vote except the Association be equally divided.

10. It sball be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the Association.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before it rises.

12. Amendments to this form of government may be made at any time by two-thirds of the members present, when they may deem it necessary.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	Baptized	Restored	Received by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Pres. Membership	Time of Meeting	Contributions
FIRST DISTRICT.													
Bethel	Chilton	Eld. J. W. Howell	A. B. Dennis, M. Popwell	J. W. Kicker, Coopers, Ala.	1	..	3	..	..	..	54	2	$2.00
Coosa River	Elmore	No Pastor	J. P. Nobles, H. J. Guy	J. M. Pyron, Deatsville, Ala	..	..	..	..	1	..	34	3	2.00
Swamp Creek	Coosa	Eld. J. R. Monk	J. W. Howell, J. M. Wallace	W. J. Guy, Salter, Ala	..	..	1	..	2	..	17	4	1.50
SECOND DISTRICT.													
Bethel	Coosa	Eld. J. A Nix	W. H. Holley, J. H. Johnson	J. H. Johnson, Speed, Ala	3	1	1	2	..	3	67	1	$4.00
Chana Creek	Elmore	Eld. R. B. Smith	R. B. Smith. J. K. White	J. C. Dun, Neman, Ala.	..	..	..	..	3	..	83	1	4.00
Fish Pond	Coosa	Not Represented			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Mt. Gilead	Elmore	Eld. J. W. Howell	F. L. Barker, J. I. Plott*	F. L. Barker, Falkner, Ala.	2	1	..	1	..	2	29	3	2.50
Salem	Elmore	Eld. R. B. Smith	W. N. Hornsby, R. J. Hill.	L. F. Johnston, Tallassee, Ala	1	..	..	2	..	..	40	2	2.00
THIRD DISTRICT.													
Marble Valley	Coosa	Not Represented			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Mt. Olive	Shelby	Eld. S. S. Crumpton, J. E. Dykes.	J. E. Dykes,* W. A. Tallant.*	W. A. Tallant, Columbiana, Ala.	..	..	..	2	..	..	28	1	$1.50
Ebenezer	Shelby	J. J. Moore, Pro. Tem.	A. G. Embey, W. J. Hartsfield.	R. J. Moore. Sterrett, Ala	1	..	.	..	..	..	20	2	1.25
Beulah	Jefferson	Eld. J. J. Moore, M. C Wood	M. C. Wood, J. M. Cardwell.	J. F, Byers, Leeds. Ala	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	4	1.25
Little Hope	Shelby	Elds. S. S. Crumpton, J. J. Moore.	S. S. Crumpton, J. H. Shirley.	J. S. Hartsfield, Lewis, Ala.	2	..	2	1	..	..	12	3	75